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**Subject:** MASSIVE 25 MILLION+ GAL. LPG FACILITY IN LA HARBOR...1,000 FT. FROM HOMES EDGE OF PORT

**Date:** Fri, 28 Jun 2013 14:45:53 -0400 (EDT)

**From:** Janet Gunter <arriane5@aol.com>

**To:** kyle\_chapman@boxer.senate.gov

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Hello Kyle-

After being prompted by an email from Professor Bea, a colleague just watched the Boxer meeting on the Texas and Louisiana explosions and urged me to contact your office again. Our homeowners have actively pursued Sen. Boxer's assistance on this issue for over 3 years with very little response from the LA Office. We met with Raffi Nazarians years ago...and submitted multiple emails, documents, etc. without results or response. Months ago, we began calling Maurice Lyles and copying him on emails ...again, without response. So, while we have watched as the Senator has been so public in her concern for the issue of risk to the public from these hazardous chemical sites...we have not been able to capture any interest on this flagrant risk that poses such disaster potential to residents for miles, along with a very real opportunity to decimate both ports of LA and Long Beach. It has been very frustrating to say the least. We have been fighting for OVER 40 YEARS the presence of this LPG facility that was introduced in 1973 *without* a risk analysis or notice to residents.

This facility was introduced to capitalize on the profitable opportunity of shipping propane and butane by sea at the port of LA. The Port refused to have the facility on its own property for safety reasons, but it was accommodated on private property, within 1,000 ft. of existing neighborhoods and schools and within 1/4 mile of the inner harbor of the port. For over 30 years the gas was sent by pipeline from the storage facility to the wharf. The port *refused* to renew the wharf lease in 2004 since the active gas pipeline prohibited their terminal expansion project. Currently all transport of the hazardous gas runs daily through neighborhoods and the port of LA by rail and truck.

From inception, the facility was exempted from a number of regulations (including LA City fire regulations), sits in the actual documented "rupture zone" of the Palos Verdes Fault (mag. 7.3 in tanks built to a seismic sub-standard of 5.5 - 6.0) and allowed to circumvent CEQA laws. The litany of offenses here is too extensive to recount in this email. Suffice it to say that one of the LA Harbor Commissioners was a shareholder in the company "Petrolane" at the time of introduction. The facility is now operating under its 3rd owner under the name of "Rancho LPG LLC"/ owned by Plains All American Pipeline. We have been beating this issue to death for years and getting nowhere even after a rail car accident (which miraculously didn't rupture the car) in March of 2012. However, in March 2013 the EPA issued a letter to "Show Cause" to Rancho (attached) on 6 items of violation. The compliance date was April 15th, but they have obviously been given an extension. The status of this action is unknown. This is where the Senator could be of significant help. For starters, the EPA Action should be moved on without further hesitation.

Another key point here is the issue of "insurance". A local municipality (whose city line comes within 1,250 ft. of Rancho LPG) Rancho Palos Verdes, recently requested the insurance information from this operator and was denied it, claiming that it is "proprietary information". We know that they have no adequate liability coverage outside their own premises. Emphasis should be made upon insurance as a proxy for risk. The City of LA controls a monthly "roll over" revocable rail permit to Rancho LPG on a rail spur. An immediate course of action could be taken by revoking that rail permit until the facility proves insurance coverage commensurate with its risk of liability. This request has been made to the City of LA and flatly denied.

UC Berkeley Professor Bob Bea, the nationally recognized "Master of Disaster" has reviewed details of this facility and has acknowledged grave concerns about it. (See MJ article, last few paragraphs) He is focused on the "domino effect" it would have on the multitude of adjacent fuel resources. The Rancho LPG site abuts the Conoco Phillips refinery, sits across the street from the Naval Fuel Depot, is within 1/2 mile of oil terminals at the port, and is located above a hornets nest of chemical and fuel pipelines

extending from the port up the coast and inland. The disaster potential is overwhelming. Using an EPA formula, **one** of the two 12.5+ Million Gallon Butane tanks has a blast radius of over 3 miles. Obviously, if one of these tanks explodes the other will not be left standing. The Ports of LA and Long Beach would both be decimated. You should use google earth to see the site and its proximity to other sources of flammability. The address is 2110 No. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA. 90731

Please take a look *immediately* at this issue. It is either by sheer dumb luck or miraculous intervention that this facility has not **already** been engulfed in a serious explosion and fire. The disaster potential is tremendous in scope. We need assistance...and we need it fast! Remember, the entire facility is now sitting on an infrastructure that is over 40 years old. Thank you. Please respond to this email and my phone call.

Sincerely,  
Janet Gunter  
(310) 251-7075